

SCL ----- SOUNDTRACK CORRESPONDENCE LIST.

LUKAS KENDALL, RFD 488, VINEYARD HAVEN, MA 02568 USA

#9, March 1991

Finally! A newsletter out on time. Andy and I were able to communicate more frequently this month, and thus were able to coordinate the newsletters much better. I am proud to say it looks like the newsletter will be able to stay on a monthly basis. Moving on: TYPESTYLE--While I did not receive any complaints about last newsletter's typesize, I hope to make the newsletter even clearer this month by using multi-columnar formatting and a laserprinter. Looks better, doesn't it? WAR--It looks like this is over. Good. SCORE--It is now to the point where Andy doesn't have to edit any reviews--good job to everyone on that. (NOTE: If you didn't see your review this SCORE, you'll see it next issue). Andy is glad that SCORE is finally getting to have a debate (on the SW Trilogy CD's). He points out that the debate section is to give every member a chance to state his/her opinion, and that SCORE will be more interesting if members respond. I had an interesting debate topic, which if not used in SCORE could be used in Mark Hamilton's newsletter or here: "Should (not 'will'--he probably won't) John Williams ever score Star Trek?" That topic came up in my correspondence with Amer Khalid--I said no, Amer said yes. What do you think?

Speaking of... MARK HAMILTON'S MOVIE REVIEWS--I still haven't heard from Mark yet--I can only assume he's been busy. However... MICHAEL THOMPSON'S SCL SOUNDTRACK LIST--This should be out as soon as members send in their lists. Send it through me if you have to, but please get it in. DANNY ELFMAN INTERVIEW--This was in the New York Times some weeks ago, with an abridged version appearing in the International Herald Tribune. I have a wealth of composer interviews on file, among them: Elmer Bernstein (NY Times), Jerry Goldsmith (Starlog), Danny Elfman (NY Times, Starlog), James Horner (Starlog), and Dennis McCarthy & Ron Jones (Cinefantastique, ST:TNG magazine). Don't hesitate to ask if you'd like a copy of any of these articles. ADDRESSES--Michael Thompson notes that he isn't moving after all. His PO Box would have stayed the same anyway, so don't have a heart-attack. Jeanny Driscoll tells me that Steven Speed has left for his UK address and "whereabouts unknown of present." I'll try to track him down--his UK address may be the one Howard gave me in his last letter before his tragic death. NEW MEMBER--My original Starlog letter in

153 which started this entire thing continues to work wonders--Jeff Delk (address below) of California joins up this newsletter, asking if we can help him find SF motion picture soundtracks. Can we ever! Through the combined efforts of our own multi-national coalition here, I doubt there's a soundtrack we couldn't find, outside of something which doesn't exist. HOWARD TRIBUTE--I received some kind words for my tribute to Howard last month--it was not an easy thing to write. I wrote to Howard's parents, and I don't blame anyone you may not wish to do that. All in all, I thank the members for their support, as I hope Howard's friends and parents do. SCL ANNIVERSARY--As Amer Khalid informed me, this is coming up in June (one year? already?). Amer would like to plan an anniversary special for the members, and also says he is working on a critical analysis of James Horner's works. Anything anyone wants to do of course has my approval. SILVA SCREEN'S ADDRESS--A few of you have requested this so here it is for everyone: Silva Screen Records, Ltd., Silva House, 261 Royal College St., London NW1 9LU GREAT BRITAIN.

SCL MEMBERS (Please let me know exactly where line breaks should be. I've approximated them here to fit on 4 lines.)

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NEW AMERICAN POSTAGE RATES (Can you tell I've run out of important material?)

<u>Letter mail</u>	Mexico (up to 1/2 oz.)	.35	up to 8 ozs.	\$9.95
First class mail	(up to 1 oz.)	.45	Priority mail (up to 2 lbs.)	2.90
up to 1 oz.	International airmail letter rate		Parcel Post	1.74**
each additional oz.	up to 1/2 oz.	.50		
Postal cards	each additional 1/2 oz. *	.45		
Letter rate to	<u>Package Services (domestic only)</u>			
Canada (up to 1 oz.)	Express mail service			

* not exactly sure on that

** post office flier says "1.74 and up"

ALBUM NEWS

Next to nothing here. The only news I have is that the aforementioned article on Ron Jones in ST:TNG magazine says that Jones is negotiating with GNP Crescendo on a release of the Best of Both Worlds scores, parts 1 and 2. So, that sounds promising--GNP is the label which has already released ST II, ST III, The Cage, ST Sound FX, and Encounter at Farpoint, so they have a good track record (excuse the

pun). If The Best of Both Worlds is done, it would not be for a year or so, anyway, so I'm not getting my hopes up yet. On another topic, it's always wise to keep an eye out for discontinued Varèse soundtracks, such as Supergirl and Runaway. Varèse Sarabande has released a plethora of soundtracks in the past two years, from the well-known to the obscure. So, it's inevitable that Varèse will get close

to "going under," at which point they will cut numerous titles which will then become scarce. Their cutting of all LP's and old soundtracks like Runaway and Supergirl are signs that they may have gone too far already. Anyway, the moral of the story is to keep an eye out for titles that may be cut by desperate record companies, and that's all the news I have here.

SCORE NEWS

Lots of news here from Andy Dursin. Andy reports that: 1) Lalo Scifrin has scored "F/X 2." 2) George Fenton has scored the new Terry Gilliam film "The Fisher King." 3) Rock group Wilson Phillips sings the title song to "An American Tail 2." According to the Star Trek II CD booklet, Horner is indeed back to do the score. 4) Ira Newborn scores "The Naked Gun 2 1/2." 5) James Newton Howard scored "Guilty By Suspicion," the new DeNiro film. 6) Marc Shaiman will score "The Addams Family," with Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia, due out next Christmas. On the Star Trek front, I recently got to talk to Gary Berman of

Creation Conventions, and he provided me with the latest gossip (NOTE--This is extreme hear-say): 1) Shooting is to start April 15. 2) Nick Meyer writes and directs. 3) All the original cast is back, and no one dies. 4) Sulu gets his own captaincy at the end. 5) It has yet to be determined who will do the score. 6) The film should be out around Christmas. 7) The script is rumored not to be very good--hopefully, that will change between now and April 15th. 8) Effects are by ILM (yay!). Meanwhile, Horner has a new score out, Class Action (soundtrack on Varèse Sarabande), and Henry Mancini tuned up the ABC TV movie, The Return of Peter

Gunn, which aired on March 2nd. Andy Dursin also tells me that Horner's "Glory" won the best original composition for motion picture or television Grammy award, while Badalamenti's "Twin Peaks" won (something like) best performance in jazz (individual male performance). Ángel Luis Santana meanwhile tells me that "The Little Mermaid" also won an award. Finally, getting ready for Mark Hamilton's movie review newsletter, or so it seems, Michael Thompson informs me that Predator 2 is excellent, while NeverEnding Story 2 is "like wasting two hours of [y o u r] l i f e ."

CURRENT SCORES -- From the New York Times of March 3, 1991

MOVIE:	COMPOSER:	ALBUM ON:
Alice	not listed	
Awakenings	Randy Newman	Reprise
Class Action	James Horner	Varèse Sarabande
Closet Land	Mark Einhorn, Philip Glass	
Dances W/ Wolves	John Barry	Epic
The Doors	The Doors	Elektra
The Field	not listed	
GoodFellas	not listed	Atlantic
Green Card	not listed	Varèse Sarabande
The Grifters	not listed	
Hamlet	Ennio Morricone	Virgin
The Hard Way	Arthur Rubinstein	Varèse, songs on Def Jam/Colombia
He Said, She Said	not listed	
Heaven & Earth	Tetsuya Komuro	
Home Alone	John Williams	CBS
Iron & Silk	not listed	
King Ralph	James Newton Howard	Little Richard song on Polydor

MOVIE:	COMPOSER:	ALBUM ON:
L.A. Story	Peter Melnick	
La Femme Nikita	Eric Serra	
Misplaced	not listed	
Mr. & Mrs. Bridge	not listed	Novus/RCA
New Jack City	Michel Colombier	Giant
Nothing But Trouble	not listed	
Once Around	James Horner	Varèse Sarabande
Open Doors	not listed	
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead	not listed	
Scenes From a Mall	not listed	
Shadow of China	Yasuaki Shimizu	
Shipwrecked	not listed	
Silence of the Lambs	Howard Shore	MCA
Sleeping / Enemy	Jerry Goldsmith	Colombia
Superstar	not listed	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Only two questions this month:

Q: From Ángel Luis Santana: "Is there a Bill Conti soundtrack for The Big Blue, since the Eric Serra one isn't the same?"

Q: From Michael Thompson: "Has 'The Terminator' turned up on CD? It's not listed by Movie Boulevard. And has anyone heard anything about Terminator 2: Judgement Day?"

About the second question, I saw a

Terminator cassette at Movie Boulevard, but not a CD, but I did see a Terminator CD on Terry Broz's soundtrack list (which I was forwarding to Michael--the soundtrack list idea is having benefits already, and it's not even done!). Could anyone provide some answers to this query? As to the "Joel Goldsmith news" which was begun last newsletter, add the following credits: 1) Joel co-scored a truly terrible movie on USA network last week, "Laserblast" or

something. 2) Joel was "synthesizer programmer" for daddy Jerry on "Runaway." Also, note that the soundtrack to Moon 44 is indeed out in many places, and Ángel Luis Santana tells me that the video is out on LIVE video. He says he's read the plot is about "a big company that preys on small ones that mine on moons, and Michael Pare is up to see who's leaking info for the takeovers." Don't you just love these mind-engaging plot ideas?

BUY AND SELL

So far, Ángel Luis Santana is the only contributor to this section--he is offering to trade cassettes of Top Gun, Rocky IV, Salsa, Star Trek II, CE3K, and Batman (Prince) for CD's of Black Hole, Alien, Conan, Superman II, Supergirl, or King Kong (1976). Ángel notes that he will trade 3 cassettes for 1 CD, since 1 to 1

trading is silly, due to the differences in the cassette and CD formats. I know that CD's exist for Supergirl, Alien, and Superman II (which is a new release, a single CD combining Ken Thorne's scores for Superman II and III), CD's might exist for the two Conan films and King Kong, but I don't think there is a CD for The Black

Hole. Ángel also notes that the best way to find out if there is a soundtrack to a film is to check the end credits and movie posters/video boxes. He confirms by checking this way that there were no soundtracks for The Burbs, Young Guns, and Predator.

WANTED

Just V-The Final Battle (McCarthy) and Looker (Nitzsche) for Michelle Drayton (it's pretty much confirmed there never was a Young Guns soundtrack). About V, in ST:TNG magazine McCarthy notes how he was brought in to score the second and third parts of The Final Battle since the original electronic score wasn't working out. Moving on, Amer Khalid Zahid notes that he will be picking up a copy of Somewhere

In Time in Islamabad, so that takes care of that. Also, I saw a copy of Lion of the Desert at Tower Records in New York City, so that is definitely out. I don't know if Tower does mail order, however. In another area of merchandise, Jeanny Driscoll, unable to purchase SF related items in South Africa, says she is looking for all ST and SW soundtracks on cassette, any ST pins and also any Starfleet

uniforms, second-hand or new, size 38. She will supply tapes and pay postage for anyone who will tape any soundtracks of the following shows: Battlestar Galactica, Star Wars, any ST or ST:TNG. I will be looking into merchandise outlets, specifically Star Tech, for any of these items.

FOOTLIGHT FIND

I got to visit Footlight in person recently--these are among the notable CD's and cassettes I saw (don't ask me how I define "notable"--if I recognized the name or composer, I wrote it down). In addition, Footlight has tons of LP's, and don't forget that they are constantly getting new titles (and selling out others). Chances are the

selection has already changed by the time you read this. If you have a title you really want, it's a good idea to give Footlight a buzz once and a while. Their phone number is 212-533-1572, and their address is: 113 East 12th Street, New York, NY 10003 USA. Communicating by mail is significantly harder than by phone with

Footlight, as they are primarily a store and secondly a mail order service. What follows is as close as they'll ever have to a catalog. If overseas members are really desperate, they can order through me--send your want list and I'll call Footlight to see what they have. Anyway, here's part of their inventory as of February 26, 1991.

COMPACT DISCS

Back to the Future I, II, III
Batteries Not Included
The Black Cauldron
Brainstorm
Close Encounters/Third Kind
Cocoon: The Return
Darkman
Damien: Omen 2
Empire Strikes Back (Gerhardt)
Empire of the Sun
Enemy Mine
Explorers
ET: The Extra-Terrestrial
The Final Conflict: Omen 3
The Fury
Goldfinger
Gorky Park
Indiana Jones/Temple of Doom
(only 2 copies left and this is out-of-print and hard to get!!!)
Innerspace (one copy left!)
Jane Eyre
Krull (rare! Act now on this one--it's the American release and has two tracks more than the European release)
King Kong (1933)
Legend (Goldsmith)

Miracle Mile (Tangerine Dream)
Moon 44 (Joel Goldsmith)
Night Breed
Near Dark (Tangerine Dream)
Neverending Story
Omen (2 versions--one version is a promo copy and has slightly different cover art)
Once Around
On Her Majesty's Secret Service
Planet of the Apes
Plan 9 From Outer Space
Poltergeist 2, 3
Predator 2
Quigley Down Under
Rambo 3
Return of the Jedi (Gerhardt cond.)
Robocop 1, 2
Runaway (out-of-print!)
The Running Man
The Secret of Nimh
Sleeping With the Enemy
Somewhere In Time
Starman
Star Trek 1,2,3,4,5
Star Wars Trilogy (Kojian cond.)
Supergirl (out-of-print!)
Superman
Thunderball

The Time Machine
Total Recall
2001 (original and new releases)
2010
Warlock (Goldsmith)
Wavelength (Tangerine Dream)
Willow
Witness
You Only Live Twice
CASSETTES

Alien
Aliens (US and British releases)
Back to the Future 1,2,3
Batteries Not Included
Blade Runner
Brainstorm
Cocoon: The Return
Clan of the Cave Bear
Damien: Omen 2
Darkman
Dick Tracy (3 releases)
Dr. No
Driving Miss Daisy
Edward Scissorhands
ET: The Extra-Terrestrial
Enemy Mine
The Final Conflict: Omen 3
The Fury
Gremlins 2
Halloween 2,3,4,5
Home Alone

The Hunt For Red October
King Solomon's Mines
Indiana Jones/Temple of Doom
Jaws
Legend (Tangerine Dream)
Leviathan
Lionheart Vol 1,2
The Man With the Golden Gun
Miracle Mile (Tangerine Dream)
Near Dark (Tangerine Dream)
Night Breed
The Omen
Pee-Wee/Back to School
Predator 2
Presumed Innocent
Quigley Down Under
Raiders of the Lost Ark
Rambo 2
Red Sonja
Robocop
Runaway
Sleeping With the Enemy
Somewhere In Time
Starman
Star Trek 2,3,4
Taxi Driver
Thunderball
The Terminator
2001
Where the River Runs Black
Witness

--That's all, folks

Plenty of new information and reviews to pass on after the February lay-off, so let's quickly get to the usual review requirements:

- 1) THREE OR FOUR SENTENCES. As I reported last issue, the length of just about all of the reviews have been right on target, so keep up the good work!
- 2) When reviewing, include (if possible): running-time, record company (w/"catalog" number), composer, along with any "special" information, like new booklet notes, photos, unreleased bonus tracks. Be sure to include that info.
- 3) Review anything, but try to keep your reviews to releases done within the last few years. New re-releases and re-issues do count, and completely new soundtrack reviews are needed.
- 4) Dont forget to include a grade, from A to F.

NEW RELEASES

Howard Shore's **Silence of the Lambs** score, an intense and very eerie soundtrack, is out from MCA. While it's not the type of music you want to sit down and listen to, it's about the most effective score for a movie in a long time. Here are some reviews by yours truly, along with new soundtrack reviews from Lukas Kendall and Terry Broz. (Additional Member Reviews are in the Member Review section).

HAMLET. Music by Ennio Morricone. Virgin LPs, CDs and Cassettes (2-91600). 18 tracks-- 53:00// The score for the film "Hamlet", as composed by Ennio Morricone, evokes very well the tragical mood that permeates this Franco Zeffirelli adaptation of the famous Shakespearean play. Most of the tracks, fittingly, are somber and moody, with a few "lighter" exceptions, such as 'The Banquet' and 'Dance For the Queen', and also featured are excellent viola and oboe solos. Some may feel that this is one of the best Morricone scores to come out since, at least "The Untouchables", but although I feel it balances well with the main mood of the film, I dont believe it warrants a top grade. I'm only, therefore, giving it a **B+**. (I'm sure there will be disagreements, but since I personally liked only a few of the tracks, I'm not going any higher). -Terry Broz

SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY. Music by Jerry Goldsmith. Columbia CDs and Cassettes (CK 47380). 12 tracks-- 41:32/// The new Julia Roberts thriller gets two big boosts--Joesph Ruben's standard but slick direction and Jerry Goldsmith's lovely score that's quite a change from his sci-fi/action scores of recent months. Goldsmith's work is at its best when he focuses on the Roberts character in tracks like 'Morning on the Beach', although some of his work for the husband (Patrick Bergin) is a bit hackneyed and overdone. Still, this is a very good outing and a fine score. **B+** -Andy Dursin

KINDERGARTEN COP. Music by Randy Edelman. Varese Sarabande CDs and Cassettes (VSD/C-5305). 15 tracks-- 38:15/// I never noticed Edelman's previous work for Ivan Reitman in films like "Twins" and "Ghostbusters II", but here he has composed a poignant and very effective, lovely score for the very entertaining Arnold Schwarzenegger Christmas release. Edelman beautifully fits the comic settings of Arnie teaching a kindergarten class by creating several sincere themes along with the standard action music. Fortunately, Edelman (much like the film) pays more attention to the human side of the characters, thus producing a terrific soundtrack ranking among the best of a mixed 1990. **A-** -Andy Dursin

GREMLINS 2. Music by Jerry Goldsmith. Varese Sarabande CDs and Cassettes (VSD/C-5269). 12 tracks-- 39:28/// Goldsmith is never one to repeat himself without thought, and he thinks quite a bit here. Many themes are present: the old gremlins theme (orchestral version--few synths), the new, more menacing gremlins theme, the genetics-lab theme, the Gizmo theme, the new Billy-Kate theme, and the "looney" Gremlin theme, using old cartoon sound FX. Some tracks are only average, but Leaky Faucet(3) and Pot Luck(5) are great. Consistent quality Goldsmith, though the CD packaging is skimpy. (Booklet has only a few pictures, nothing more). **B+**

-Lukas Kendall

Member Reviews

If you're looking for James Horner reviews, you've come to the right place as Mark Hamilton contributes several reviews for Horner scores. (Horner fans will want to note that **Once Around** is out from Varese Sarabande, while **My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys** is distributed and released by MCA. However, the latter score features mostly country tracks, with a couple actually culled from Horner's score). The following are all Horner soundtracks:

Krull. Silva Screen Records(UK), Southern Cross Records(US). 6 tracks--39:44/// This was the first score Horner did for British director Peter Yates (the other being "The Dresser"), and boy did he come up with a score! Horner composed a humdinger of a swashbuckling score that is so full of energy it never lets up from start to finish...This is one of Horner's best! Favorite track is 'Riding the Firemares', and the album cover also has some useful info on Horner and the film. **A-**

Willow. Virgin Movie Music. 8 tracks--72mins./// Horner has come up with another score very much in the same mould as "Krull" only this time he relies heavily on ethnic instruments which add a certain magical quality and atmosphere to George Lucas' 1988 fantasy. Once again it is performed quite exquisitely by the London Symphony Orchestra as orchestrated as usual by Grieg McRitchie. Favorite track 'Escape From the Tavern'. **B+**

Glory. Virgin Music. 12 tracks--43:24 /// Bit of a mixed bag this one from Horner but it does convey a genuine feeling of chaos, hardship and war. Horner's music is very sombre and haunting and occasionally goes a bit over the top with sopiness and sentimentality. Still this is not a bad score and the Boys Choir of Harlem (pretty good choice considering the subject material!) stand out, a bit like the overuse of the snare drum. Best track "closing credits". **B-**

(Editor's note: I'm not the biggest Horner fan, but I confess that I really liked "Glory" and consider it Horner's best to date. Most critics applauded the score, but I guess others feel differently! Oh well -A.D.)

Field of Dreams. RCA Novus CDs and Cassettes. approx.51mins. /// Nominated for an Academy Award last year (his second), this is one of Horner's finest achievements. It is such a subtle little score that sparkles with gems everytime you listen to it. Horner plays the piano beautifully, what more can I say..just sit back with a coffee, relax and enjoy. Perfect. **A+**

(Ed.'s note: I also loved "Field of Dreams", but after hearing Randy Newman's 1984 "The Natural", there's more than a little "inspiration" in Horner's "Field" soundtrack. -A.D.)

Cocoon:The Return. Varese Sarabande CDs and Cassettes. 9 tracks--55mins./// This is just a virtual re-run of "Cocoon" material changed here and there to suit the plot of the film. Once again it has jazz numbers in it but these seem to fall apart because this time Horner did the sequences himself instead of having big band veteran Billy Hale orchestrate them. Overall this is not a bad score which is very recognisable against other Horner scores notably "Batteries Not Included" and the best track being "Rescue/The Ascension". Last point, "Remembrances/The Break-In" seems incomplete! **B-**

All Horner reviews contributed by Mark Hamilton

Thanks to Mark for the overview of Horner's most popular scores. Before we begin a little debate about the new STAR WARS TRILOGY CD, here's the deal on the SCORE OF THE YEAR award.

SCORE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

First off, let's take a look at the Oscar nominees: **Dances With Wolves**(John Barry-Epic), **Avalon** (Randy Newman-Reprise), **Havana**(Dave Grusin-GRP), **Ghost**(Maurice Jarre-Varese Sarabande), and one of my favorites from 1990, **Home Alone**(John Williams-CBS). Terry Broz and I both thought that "Dances" would be an Oscar shoe-in back in November, and Terry has now predicted that it will win the Oscar. And I will completely agree with him yet again. It's a sweeping score with numerous different themes that fill up Kevin Costner's film. Now, with those titles included, here are some suggestive nominees sent in by members since last issue:

FROM TERRY BROZ: **Dances With Wolves**, **Edward Scissorhands**(Elfman-MCA), **Hamlet**(Morricone-Virgin).

FROM LUKAS KENDALL: **Gremlins 2**, **Total Recall**, **ST-TNG**(Ron Jones--"about 4 episodes are really exceptional").

FROM ANDY DURSIN: **Dances With Wolves**, **Home Alone**, **The Russia House**, **Back to the Future III**, **Edward Scissorhands**, **Nightbreed**.

CONTD→

Those nominations were not done in any type of order, at least not in my order. Terry did put those in a "Top 3" order for his list. Here's the process--not everyone has contributed their nominations, so I'll wait until next month to print an entire list of nominations. SEND YOUR PICKS NOW!!! It'll be 1992 before we crown a "SCORE OF THE YEAR" winner for 1990, so get your vote in now. After the nominations list is processed, you'll be able to vote from the nominees in an order where you'll take all the nominees and list them in descending order--a certain number of points will go to the 1st place winner, fewer for 2nd place, etc. And hopefully by April or May we'll have a winner. But it won't work unless you send in your picks today, so do it!!

SCORE DEBATE: THE STAR WARS TRILOGY

Finally, here's something that I wanted to have happen right here in SCORE. A debate! This is only the beginning of this section--if YOU have anything to say, send in your comments! Reactions to this and your comments will be printed here.

First, here is the debate topic: the "STAR WARS" compilation albums. Yes, there have been many, but which one is the right one? Lukas Kendall wants me to point out that his following reviews are an attempt to give the members something to go by if they are considering buying one. He also points out that the music, since it's "Star Wars", would be an A in each case. The reviews "may be harsh, but I'm reviewing the particular releases".

JOHN WILLIAMS CONDUCTS JOHN WILLIAMS: THE STAR WARS TRILOGY. Composed and Conducted by John Williams, the Skywalker Symphony Orchestra. Sony Classical CD, Tape (SK-45947). 13 tracks-- 55:48/// This is the recent attempt by John Williams and George Lucas to create the definitive STAR WARS album. The music is, of course, great, and the "Skywalker Sound" is supposedly excellent, though I honestly can't tell the difference. Nothing new is done here, though, and that is a disappointment. All the tracks (mostly major themes) have been heard before on a CD, and not much differently (it is interesting to note that Williams takes his compositions at a slower tempo, though). The booklet is great, the sound is great, the music is great, but this CD really doesn't have a purpose, and therefore there's no real reason to buy it except for the sake of having it. An "A" on the music, but a C+ on the intent.

THE STAR WARS TRIGGY. Conducted by Varujan Kojian, Utah Symphony Orchestra. 14 tracks--51:09/// This was the previous then-original Trilogy album, one of the quality re-recordings that may have sparked Williams and Lucas to try and "reclaim" their creation. The music is great, the sound is nice, Kojian's conducting is adequate, the orchestra is capable, and the booklet is okay, though not as thick as the Sony Trilogy one. Undue attention is focused on the "Return of the Jedi", which makes up 7 tracks out of the 14, but 2 of those tracks are unavailable anywhere else. They are "Fight With the Tie Fighters" (excellent!) and "Darth Vader's Death" (okay). Those two tracks are the reason to buy this CD and not the Sony one--thank Kojian and Varese for putting some new with the old. A- on the release.

OK, so that's what Lukas has to say. His point is that if you're going to do another S.W. album, years after the release, you'd better put some new music with the old. And that's why he thinks that the Sony album has no purpose.

REBUTTLE FROM ANDY DURSIN: I have to totally disagree with Lukas on this one. The purpose of the Sony John Williams album is simple and deserving of a re-recording. 1) To re-record the music in all digital sound (the original soundtracks are AAD on the CDs, remember). 2) The first recording at George Lucas' new studio with the new Skywalker Symphony, to commemorate the occasion. 3) Although the Kojian album may be fine, we all know that compositions not conducted and supervised by the original composer just aren't the same. This is the first album of music from the Trilogy done by Williams himself, except for the original recordings (and a few tracks here and there on some Boston Pops recordings). Thus, this has to be the definitive recording. 4) The Kojian album is half "Jedi"--there's music from everything portioned out here (not completely, but more so than the Kojian album. 6 from "Wars", 4 from "Empire" 3 from "Jedi". Besides, the first score is better than the sequels for the most part). 5) New tracks would be nice, but the major themes are what the Trilogy is remembered for, and the Williams album contains more music from the Trilogy. That'll do it, but I can understand Lukas' point of view completely. Besides, it's only a record. So send in your point-of-view, tell us what you think and we'll print it here.

NEXT ISSUE: The complete list of SCORE OF THE YEAR Nominees (Hopefully), along with any follow-ups on the STAR WARS TRILOGY debate and, of course, more reviews. (Reviews that were sent but not contained in this issue will definitely be included next time!)

Andy Dursin